

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2195

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AMCONSUL LUANDA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, MZ

SUBJ: DGS ACTIVITIES IN TETE DISTRICT

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 182

1. SUMMARY: NOTICIAS OF OCTOBER 31 REPORTS DGS SUB-DDLEGATION IN TETE DISTRICT HAS BEEN COMMENDED FOR HAVING NIPPED IN THE BUD A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION WHICH CALLED ITSELF "FRELI MO SECRET SERVICE", WHICH HAD FORMED PLANS TO CARRY OUT SELECTIVE TERRORISM IN TETE. END SUMMARY.

2. ARTICLE REPORTS THAT DURING NIGHT OF OCTOBER 16, "TERRORIST" ELEMENTS ASSASSINATED DGS PRISON GUARD, "A ZEALOUS AND DEDICATED EMPLOYEE", WHILE LATTER WAS IN HIS HOME IN TETE SUBURBS. UNDER LEADERSHIP OF DEPUTY INSPECTOR JOAQUIM PICARRA SABINO, DGS STARTED ITS INVESTIGATIONS AND SUCCEEDED SHORTLY THEREAFTER IN CAPTURING A "TERRORIST" WHO WAS PART OF A GROUP THAT HAD FORMED PLANS TO CARRY OUT SELECTIVE TERRORISM IN TETE CITY BY ASSASSINATING DGS OFFICIALS, IMPORTANT AUTHORITIES AND LOCAL LEADERS. BY QUESTIONING THE PRISONER DGS DISCOVERED

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THE LOCATION OF THE GROUP'S REFUGE, WHICH WAS ATTACKED BY

MIXED GROUP OF MILITARY AND DGS PERSONNEL. HEAVY FIGHTING RESULTED IN DEATH OF CHIEF "TERRORIST" AND FOUR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP. SEVERAL DGS EMPLOYEES WERE WOUNDED. DOCUMENTS WERE CAPTURED DESCRIBING PURPOSE FOR WHICH GROUP WAS ORGANIZED. TWELVE ADDITIONAL PERSONS WHO SUPPORTED THIS GROUP INSIDE TETE CITY AND ITS SUBURBS WERE TAKEN PRISONER. DGS SUB-DELEGATION WAS PRAISED FOR SWIFTNESS AND EFFICIENCY WITH WHICH IT HAD ACTED. BESIDES DEPUTY INSPECTOR SABINO, OTHER OFFICIALS WERE MENTIONED IN THE COMMENDATION, INCLUDING BRIG. FUI ANTONIO FINS, WHO LED THE INVESTIGATION RESULTING IN THE CAPTURE OF THE TWELVE TERRORISTS IN CHIMAZI AND TETE CITY; SECOND CLASS AGENT JOAQUIM MOREIRA TRINDADE, WHO DIRECTED OPERATION AGAINST THE ENEMY CAMP NHACHIRURI RPT NHACHIRURI AND VARIOUS OTHER DGS EMPLOYEES. AT LEAST SIX AFRICAN EMPLOYEES WERE ALSO CITED BY NAME AND PRAISED FOR THEIR PATRIOTISM, DEVOTION TO DUTY AND VALOR.

2. SAME ISSUE OF NOTICIAS CARRIED BRIEF NOTICE THAT LARGE GROUP OF "FLECHAS" TRAINED BY DGS IS NOW OPERATING IN TETE DISTRICT. GROUP CONSISTS ENTIRELY OF PERSONS BORN IN ALTO ZAMBEZE REGION AND HAS RECEIVED EXCELLENT TRAINING IN COUNTER GUERRILLA ACTIVITY. IT IS HOPED THAT THEY WILL HAVE SIMILAR SUCCESS TO THAT ACHIEVED BY THEIR NAMESAKES IN ANGOLA. ARTICLE STATES FLECHAS OF TETE NOW FORM AN "ELITE BODY" CAPABLE OF STAYING IN THE BUSH FOR INDEFINITE PERIODS. ITS OPERATIONS ARE DIRECTED BY TETE SUB-DELEGATION OF DGS.

3. COMMENT: PUBLIC REPORTS OF DGS ACTIONS ARE QUITE UNUSUAL AND MAY SIGNIFY A WELCOME NEW DEVELOPMENT IN WHAT SEEMS TO BE RENEWED EFFORT BY PORTUGUESE TO PUBLICIZE WAR OPERATIONS. THIS EFFORT HAS BECOME EVIDENT IN LAST THREE WEEKS WHEN PAPERS HAVE CARRIED UNUSUALLY NUMEROUS ACCOUNTS OF FRELIMO ATTACKS ON ALDEAMENTOS, FRELIMO DEFECTIONS AND OTHER WAR ACTIVITIES. WHILE SUCH REPORTS, OF COURSE, CONTINUE GIVE PORTUGUESE VERSION OF EVENTS AND MUST BE REGARDED WITH DUE SKEPTICISM, THEIR APPEARANCE IS AN IMPROVEMENT OVER INITIAL TWO MONTHS OF SILENCE WHICH FOLLOWED ARRIVAL OF NEW COMMANDING GENERAL. A NUMBER OF ITEMS ARE SOMEWHAT MORE COLORFUL AND INTERESTING THAN THOSE TO WHICH WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN ACCUSTOMED AND MAY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONCEIVABLY REFLECT A LOOSENING OF CENSORSHIP, OR MORE PROBABLY, THE SUPERIOR WRITING ABILITY OF THE NEW LIEUTENANT COLONEL IN CHARGE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS.
VAN OSS

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